

Brothers,

Assalaam Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu.

We are honoured to welcome brother Muhammad amongst us at the Islamic Council.

Brother Muhammad, as you know, is the mayor of Sarajevo, a city whose brave people have been resisting most valiantly one of the most vicious and beastly aggressions the world has seen since the Second World War. This naked aggression against an independent state is the most damning indictment of the so-called new world order, whose principal aim was to put an end to aggression once and for all. But the fact is that the major world powers have shown no inclination whatsoever to stop the criminal invasion of Bosnia by the Serbian armed forces. Clearly the aim of the invasion is the conquest of Bosnia and the annihilation of Bosnia's Muslim population.

For many months now the Bosnian people have been engaged in a life and death struggle to defend their honour, their identity and their independence and have made tremendous sacrifices to this end. Allah willing, their sacrifices will not be in vain.

I do not want to dwell too long on the great tragedy that is unfolding in Bosnia. We all see it on our televisions every day. I only want to assure brother Muhammad that the hearts of Muslims the world over bleed with the suffering of their Bosnian Muslim brothers.

I now invite brother Muhammad to address this press conference.